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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2902

October 21, 2011

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I applaud you for issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on proposals to revisit the Commission's retransmission consent rules, and encourage you to complete your proceeding in time for the Commission's decision to inform this year's retransmission consent negotiations.

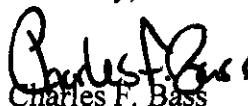
Today, New Hampshire residents benefit from broadcast localism, including reporting on civic issues specific to the state legislature and important public safety information during times of emergency and severe weather. However, given its geographic circumstances, New Hampshire remains a unique media market and the governing federal regulatory policy hinders the ability of some residents to receive New Hampshire programming. With the emergence of satellite, local exchange carrier, and online platforms, the video distribution marketplace has fundamentally changed since the introduction of the retransmission consent framework nearly two decades ago.

Recently, I've heard from a number of my state's smaller pay-TV providers about how, as a result of these video marketplace changes, increasingly frequent negotiation breakdowns and rising retransmission consent fees result in both significant inconvenience and cost to consumers.

In light of these concerns, I am pleased that the Commission is looking into this situation. Examining whether these rules have kept up with the significant evolution of the video marketplace since 1992 is appropriate, timely, and important. I appreciate your efforts to tackle this difficult issue and, with hundreds of carriage deals set to expire by the end of this year, urge you to complete your rulemaking in a timely manner to inform this year's carriage talks.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter of importance that affects my constituents.

Sincerely,

  
Charles F. Bass

Member of Congress

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 10, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Charles F. Bass  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bass:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to consider possible amendments to its rules governing retransmission consent negotiations between television broadcasters and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). I appreciate your support of the Commission's action in this important matter. Your letter has been placed in the record of the proceeding and your views will be carefully considered.

As you note, there have been significant changes in the video programming marketplace since the retransmission consent regime was adopted by Congress in 1992. Our goal in the proceeding is to take a fresh look and update and clarify our rules within the scope of the current statutory framework. We requested specific information regarding the concerns raised by small MVPDs, such as those in New Hampshire, and will carefully evaluate the record before us.

The public comment period in the proceeding closed on June 27, 2011. The Bureau is conducting its review and will make recommendations for the full Commission. We intend to complete our review expeditiously.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J".  
Julius Genachowski